

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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THE DIARY OF E. L. HOON

The descendants of the 102nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry web site has, after many months of a "coming soon" notice, finally posted the diary of Edward Lewis Hoon. The diary entries originally appeared as part of 'Diary of a Soldier - 1864' by Dr. Francis A. Lord in North South Trader, November-December 1976, vol. IV, no. 1.

The diary was begun by Hoon on May 18th, 1864 and covers the period from the beginning of the Wilderness Campaign on May 4th through to the battle of Winchester where Hoon received a wound to his right knee severe enough to necessitate the amputation of his leg.

While the diary doesn't mention the Anderson Zouaves or the Sixty-second New York by name, it does mention the brigade of which both the 102nd and the 62nd were members.

The diary is presented in PDF format and it has some problems with word spacing and page order which can make it a little confusing to read. Perseverance will reward the reader with an interesting personal insight into the movements of the 102nd and its brigade during some of the last crucial months of the war. The diary may be reproduced in an upcoming issue of *Riker's Island* but in the meantime may be found at <<http://cwdpa102ndregimentvolinf.com/elhoon.doc.pdf>>.

"THUNDERMUTTER"

At the end of 1865 the front page of an issue of the New-York Times, printed a memorial to the men of New-York who died in notorious rebel prison camp - Andersonville. There are three names that appear from the ranks of the 62d. One from Co. "F" and two from Co. "I". None of these names appear on the official roster of the 62d, however, even more curious than that is the name of the first member of the regiment who appears. He is merely listed as "— Thundermutter, Co. "F", 62d N Y Inf, [died] May 31, 1864.

Who was "Thundermutter"? This name, surely a nick-name must correspond with one of the names on the roster of the 62d. As it turns out the name it corresponds with is the member of the regiment who already had more alternate names than anyone else - Anthony Undermyer. Maybe Undermyer was very loud, thus the name Thundermutter. Or maybe he had a speech impediment or had an incomprehensibly thick German accent, for Undermyer (if that was his real name) has no fewer than nine alternate surnames by which he was known in official records and in the historical literature. These are, in alphabetical order, Thundermutter, Uinmdermier, Uiumdermier, Undermyer, Underume, Underwriter, Unlereiner, Untereiner, Utereiner. How is it that we know that Thundermutter and Undermyer are the same person? Well, if we assume that all the other information in the New-York Times regarding Thundermutter is correct, that is his date of death, his regiment and company then the only known 62nd death in Andersonville with which the information corresponds is Undermyer. Furthermore, Undermyer's death is absent from the New-York Times list, which all but makes it a certainty.

The other two individuals mentioned from the 62d NY are Garnett and Fricks. According to the Andersonville Prison Records these are alternative names for Henry Gruet and Alphonso Fuchs both of Co. "I". These "alternative" names were probably the result of poor clerical processes and strong accents, which probably explains many of the alternate names on the roster of the Anderson Zouaves. As the clerks of Andersonville did not have access to rosters or official records it can be for granted that these are the names that the soldiers were commonly known by while at Andersonville. So in recording the death of these individuals they clerk would not be able to refer to an official document to find the birth name of these people but presumably would have had to ask the deceased's comrades by what name he had gone by.

J. L. RIKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Maintained by John Tierney, the J. L. Riker Memorial Library is a collection of resources, documents, publications and artifacts which may be helpful in researching the Sixty-second New-York State Volunteers, Anderson Zouaves. The library is named after Col. John Lafayette Riker, who raised the regiment in New-York in April - August 1861, and killed at the head of his troops, at the Battle of Fair Oaks on May 31, 1862. Below is a catalogue of the publications and materials in the collection. To gain access to the collection please contact John Tierney at john@strangeplanet.com.au

PARTIAL CATALOGUE (full descriptive catalogue available on request).

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* Publication also available as a searchable digital document.

GETTYSBURG ZOUAVE MONUMENT FUND

Shaun Grenan, a member of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Pennsylvania Zouaves and a resident of Gettysburg, has created a fund, the purpose of which is to raise contributions towards the restoration of the recently vandalised Gettysburg monuments. People wishing to make a donation should send contributions to the following address as soon as possible. Make all cheques payable to "Shaun Grenan - ZMF" and put ZMF in the memo lines. A receipt will be sent to anyone who makes a donation.

Zouave Monument Fund
565 Elm St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325.